



# The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

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## January 2024 Newsletter

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### Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:

**January 27:** Winter Field Day at Salvation Army EDS, 2:00 - 6:00

**February 9:** Annual Consumer Electronics Show recap with Dave Arland at Salvation Army EDS.

**March 8:** Station Set-up considerations with K9RU, KB9RDS, and KJ9B at Salvation Army EDS.

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### Highlights from the January Meeting:

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:32 pm by club President, David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 37 in attendance. There were no new hams present. Gary, W9ST, was attending his first IRC meeting. Also, Patrick Asher, was recognized as a new member to the club. Patrick is not a ham yet, but planning to test soon. David reminded those present that club dues are due now. He also spoke about other ways members can benefit the club, such as the Kroger Plus program, paying their ARRL dues through the club with the "Club Commission Program", and designating the IRC as the recipient of their RMD distributions, since the club is a 501(c)(3) charity.

David announced that there would be a club sponsored VE test session tomorrow (1/13), as there is every month, except for May, on the second Saturday of the month at the Salvation Army EDS Facility.

Next David introduced our speakers for the evening, Rich Moseson, W2VU, and Jose Castillo, N4BAA. Rich is the editor of *CQ Magazine* and Jose is the manager of *CQ*'s

Worked all Zones (WAZ) Award program. Rich started off by stating that *CQ Magazine* has been having significant delays over the last few months. He is hopeful and optimistic that things will improve soon, but has no time table for this. He said that the financial problems affecting the magazine will have no effect on the contests and awards since they are independent from the magazine and self-sustaining. Rich said he has been the editor of *CQ* for 24 years. Before that, he held various positions with the magazine. He had also worked with CBS News and other journalistic endeavors. He said *CQ Magazine* has been around since 1945, that it came from *Pacific Radio Magazine* that started in 1917. He said the magazine has been involved with contests since the 1930s. The WAZ award started in 1934, and is the second oldest award in the hobby. Jose is an ambassador and mentor for the WAZ program. He said that WAZ is not dependent on country boundaries, etc. He also gave some tips on how to work specific zones.

The formal meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

### **Ham Radio News:**

### **NEW STATE QSO PARTY CLUB CHALLENGE**

For the past several years, the State QSO Party Challenge (<https://stateqsoparty.com/>) has re-invigorated interest in the various State QSO Party contests. Starting this year, the State QSO Party Challenge organizers (of which our own Mark Musick, WB9CIF, is one) are starting a State QSO Party Club Challenge (SQPCC). The SQPCC scoring will be compiled from individual SQP Challenge entries into <https://3830scores.com/> which include a club name. The SQPCC will only include individuals who have qualified for the SQP Challenge (submitted logs for at least 2 State QSO Parties from the “Approved Contest” list each containing at least 2 contacts).

When submitting scores to the 3830 site, our club won’t show up in the drop-down list, so in order for scores to be credited to the Indianapolis Radio Club, we will need to select “Other” from the drop-down menu and manually type in “Indianapolis Radio Club” for the club name. If enough of us do this, our club can be added to the club list.

Complete rules for the new SQPCC can be found [here](#).

## **WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

Even though we're currently in the midst of lovely Indiana winter weather, spring IS coming. Springtime in Indiana normally means storms. So, for storms, we need storm spotters. Here is a listing of Spotter training classes for some of the "donut" counties:

**Marion County:** March 7, 6 pm to 8 pm at Salvation Army EDS

**Marion County:** March 20, 2 pm to 4 pm at Indiana State Fairgrounds, Purdue Extension Bldg.

**Hendricks County:** Feb. 24, 11 am to 1 pm at Hendricks County Gov. Ctr., Danville

**Hamilton County:** March 2, 9 am to 11 am at Carmel-Clay Middle School, Carmel (registration required)

**Morgan County:** Feb. 20, 6 pm to 8 pm Location TBD

**Hancock County:** March 21, 6 pm to 8 pm at Ninestar Connect, Greenfield

The complete list of training sessions for the state can be found at

<https://www.weather.gov/ind/spotter#train>

## **IN PERSON TECHNICIAN CLASSES COMING UP**

There are two Technician License classes coming up in Central Indiana:

1. Technician classes will be held at the Greencastle EOC on Saturday, January 20 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, and on Saturday, February 3 from 9:00 to noon, with testing following. Contact Carl, KC9VRA, at [cwknap51@yahoo.com](mailto:cwknap51@yahoo.com) for details.
2. The McKenzie Center will host FREE training classes for Amateur (HAM) radio operation on Saturday 20 January and Saturday 27 January at the McKenzie Center for Innovation and Technology, 7250 East 75th Street, in Indianapolis.

The Saturday sessions will start at 9:00 AM local time. The session on 20 January will run until 4:00 PM with a break on your own for lunch, and the 27 January session will end at Noon with license testing to begin after the class.

You will need to attend both Saturdays to cover all of the training material.

There is no cost for the training or testing, but you will have to pay a \$35 licensing fee to the Federal Communications Commission to receive your radio call sign.

For more information, please send an email inquiry to Frank E. Merrill, K9LX, at  
[K9LXradio@gmail.com](mailto:K9LXradio@gmail.com)

## ON-LINE CLASSES COMING UP

- An Extra Class will start on January 9th and run through April 30th (16 weeks). The class meets on Tuesday nights, from 6:30 to 8:30PM. The class will use the ARRL Extra Class License Manual, Twelfth Edition. The class is free. The class will be taught virtually, using the Zoom software. Class size is limited to 25 students. This class will also be streamed live and recorded for later viewing on the W4EEY YouTube channel.
- A Technician Class will start on January 10th and run through March 13th (10 weeks). The class meets on Wednesday nights, from 6:30 to 8:30PM. The class will use the ARRL Ham Radio Technician License Manual, Fifth Edition. The class is free. The class will be taught virtually, using the Zoom software. Class size is limited to 25 students. This class will also be streamed live and recorded for later viewing on the W4EEY YouTube channel. Instructors will be Gary W4EEY and Dave KE4EA. To register for one of these free classes or for more information please contact Gary W4EEY by email at: [w4eey@arrl.net](mailto:w4eey@arrl.net)
- Another free, weekly Extra Class licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, January 18, running through March 28. There will be 11 3 hour sessions starting at 6:30 pm Eastern Time. The sessions will be recorded in case someone can't make the time for one. Those attending should hold (or be studying for) the General Class Amateur Radio License. These are the classes that have been held for years sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. Those wishing to sign up should email [roland.anders@comcast.net](mailto:roland.anders@comcast.net).
- Also, a General License class will start on January 14 for 6 weeks, running from 1:30 to 4:30 pm on Zoom. The classes are free, and will be taught by K8ZT, W8EZT & N8PLZ. For more information, go to <https://tiny.cc/beahamg>

## WAYS TO SUPPORT THE IRC

You can support the Indianapolis Radio Club in any, or all, of these four ways:

1. Join the club. Your annual membership dues (\$20 for an individual, \$30 for a family (in the same household), or \$10 for a student, with valid ID) help support the club in its mission to promote our hobby by sponsoring monthly VE testing sessions, reaching out to new licensees, and welcoming them to the hobby. The easiest way to join is to go to <https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment> and complete the process through PayPal.
2. Pay your ARRL membership dues through the IRC, utilizing the Club Commission program. The club will get a \$5 commission for renewals, or a \$20 commission for new memberships. Fill out the form available at <https://tinyurl.com/ARRL-membership-form> and send it, along with payment, to club treasurer, KJ9B. Or fill out one of the forms at an in-person meeting.
3. Join the Kroger Community Rewards program (it's free!) by going to <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards> and designating the Indianapolis Radio Club as the charity you want to support. The club then gets a quarterly donation from Kroger based on a percentage of the amount spent by those supporting the club.
4. If applicable, donate part or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to the Indianapolis Radio Club, a 501(c)(3) charity.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact Ken Bandy, KJ9B, at [treasurer@indyradioclub.org](mailto:treasurer@indyradioclub.org).

## SHORTS

- If you send QSL cards through US Mail, be aware of a rate increase effective January 21. One ounce letters will go from \$.66 to \$.68, Postcards will go from \$.51 to \$.53, and International cards or 1 ounce letters will go from \$1.50 to \$1.55. There is no scheduled increase for additional ounces. More information is available [here](#).
- You may recall that Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletters dating back to the 1940s, and some other items were added to the [Internet Archive](#) last year. Last year's Newsletters have now been added. You can see all of these by going [here](#).
- The N9HLL repeater (147.105 with 77 Hz. tone) in Lebanon, which came back on the air last year, is now hosting a weekly social net on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to this new net and to the repeater.

- If you haven't seen the video from the TODAY Show a couple weeks ago detailing an ARISS contact by a school in Pennsylvania, check it out [here](#).

## **UPCOMING CENTRAL INDIANA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)**

Greenfield IN 46140-9654

Sponsor: Hancock County ARC

Date: Jan 20 2024

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: David Keiser

(317) 440-8486

Email: [kc9urp@hrtc.net](mailto:kc9urp@hrtc.net)

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Hancock EMA EOC

640 South Franklin St

Greenfield IN 46140-9654

Website: <https://w9atg.org/ve-testing2/>

Noblesville IN 46060-1624

Sponsor: Central Indiana ARA/ HCRACES

Date: Jan 20 2024

Time: 10:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Joseph March

(317) 224-9433

Email: [jmarch54@att.net](mailto:jmarch54@att.net)

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Sheriff's Training Room

CALL AHEAD

18100 Cumberland Rd

Noblesville IN 46060-1624

Website: <https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/908/RACES>

Gas City IN 46933-1155

Sponsor: GCARC

Date: Jan 23 2024

Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Mitchell D. Miller

(765) 661-5893

Email: mitchmiller55@gmail.com

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: EMA Building

3921 S Garthwaite Rd

Pre-register only, contact ahead

Gas City IN 46933-1155

Website: <https://www.grantarc.net/>

Indianapolis IN 46256-1914

Sponsor: Central Indiana Hams

Date: Jan 27 2024

Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Frank E. Merrill

(317) 590-4810

Email: K9LXradio@gmail.com

VEC: LAUREL VEC

Location: The McKenzie Center for Innovation and Technology

7250 E 75th St

Indianapolis IN 46256-1914

Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc

Date: Feb 03 2024

Time: 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: William F. Wootton

(812) 876-8689

Email: KC9ACL@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: First United Church - Call or email ahead due to COVID-19

2420 E 3rd St

Register at 11:30am

Testing at 12 NOON

Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Indianapolis IN 46218-2169  
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio club W9JP  
Date: Feb 10 2024  
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: James K. Rinehart  
(317) 721-1458  
Email: testing@indyradioclub.org  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility  
4020 Georgetown Rd  
Indianapolis IN 46218-2169

## **FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER**

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at [http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews\\_indyradioclub.org](http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org).

## **SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS**

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at [kj9b@arrl.net](mailto:kj9b@arrl.net)

### **Signals from the Past:**

**From the January - February 1954, Ama-Chewer:**

#### FCC NOTICE

Bulletin from ARRL reports FCC is proposing licensing fee (thought to be \$3) for licensing and inspection activities, see March QST. Comment may be filed with FCC until April 1, 1954.

*[This \$3 in 1954 would be equivalent to \$33 to \$35 in today's money. It appears this fee was to be submitted with any application or renewal. Unknown if this was approved or how long it was in effect if it was approved. - KJ9B]*

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## **Upcoming Area Radio Events:**

- Winter Field Day: 19:00 UTC, January 27 to 18:59 UTC, January 28 (2:00 pm local time). Indy Radio Club WFD at Salvation Army EDS at 2:00 pm.
- Hendricks County Hamfest: Feb. 10 at Hendricks County Fairgrounds. Details forthcoming.

## **2023 & 2024 Officers:**

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – [president@indyradioclub.org](mailto:president@indyradioclub.org)
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - [vp@indyradioclub.org](mailto:vp@indyradioclub.org)
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - [secretary@indyradioclub.org](mailto:secretary@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - [w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org](mailto:w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org)

**To Pay Dues or Donate to the club, go to  
<https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment>**

**Or Scan this QR Code with your smartphone:**

